

**2007 REAP Assemblies**  
**713 attending, including 37 legislators**

**Afton**

Attendance: 37

Chair: Lee Little

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. More local promotion of REAP projects, signs, local officials IIIIIII
2. Local people should promote local REAP issues
3. Reduce maintenance agreement from 20 to 10 years for prairie plantings
4. Change ruling to allow use of REAP funds for converting brome to native plantings on land enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program
5. Full funding for REAP IIIIIIIIIII
6. Work with local economic development
7. More open spaces acquisitions for public land use
8. Keep REAP formula the same
9. More contact by local REAP supporters to legislators
10. Take care of what we have instead of new investments
11. Cost share rates should keep up with inflation
12. Per population to county conservation boards not good; change to all equal allocations for all counties III
13. Tell legislators about the leverage values of REAP
14. Land acquisitions a larger portion of REAP
15. More media exposure of REAP's needs

**Burlington**

Attendance: 35

Chair: Al Ourth

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Full funding for REAP IIIIIII
2. Revive county committees and give more responsibility with REAP publicity IIIII
3. Clearly define opportunities and benefits of REAP to school districts III
4. Various funding sources for REAP III
5. More funding for historical resources IIII
6. Loosen restrictions on county committee membership III
7. License plate money to be used for publicity and county committees
8. Keep REAP formula the same
9. More money for trails II
10. More publicity for REAP, try different mediums
11. Larger REAP signs at REAP funded sites
12. Every county should be required to have a 5-year plan to receive funding
13. More private land acquisitions
14. Update financial aspects of soil and water conservation practices III
15. REAP on-ground tour
16. REAP inserts in local newspapers
17. Bottle deposits to be used to fund REAP

## 18. More invasive species management of land acquisitions

### **Carroll**

Attendance: 39

Chair: Jerry Roberts

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Full funding   IIIIIIIIII
2. Increased funding for conservation education (make cons. ed. a percentage of the REAP pie?)
3. Ease restrictions on REAP county committee membership   III
4. Increased public education about REAP using different media
5. Increased per county allocations
6. Split allocations so small counties receive equal consideration
7. Funding for raptor rehab and reintroduction programs   II
8. More awareness of license plate designs (turkey?)
9. Further education of land management practices
10. Functions of REAP board be rolled over to RC&D boards
11. Non-profits be included in REAP process   III
12. More open spaces acquisitions for public use
13. Sustainable funding for REAP   III
14. Keep REAP formula in tact, unchanged
15. County committees should be active in reviewing grants
16. More education about what REAP can fund and where money goes
17. Increased strategic contact with legislators   II
18. Increase REAP cap to \$40 million + to compensate for inflation
19. Mandatory PR for REAP grant recipients
20. More naturalists helping with conservation education, teaching children and adults
21. SWCD, County Sups, City Council, RC&D, County Conservation- all be actively involved with REAP
22. More money for maintenance of REAP projects (especially trails)   II
23. REAP money should be spent on areas of special need
24. DNR should send out more press releases to local media
25. Competitive grants should focus on how well the project fits in its comprehensive plan  
II

### **Cedar Falls**

Attendance: 56

Chair: Joel Haack

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Fully funded with gambling \$   IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII
2. Partially funded with state tax   IIII
3. Increasing money for conservation education   IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII
4. REAP to be sustainable and protected   IIIIIIII
5. Preserve REAP formula   IIII
6. More funding for smaller communities   II
7. Small communities to make better use of funds   II

8. Target to disconnected citizens II
9. REAP should make stronger ties to other conservation organizations IIIII
10. Increase conservation education with an increase in REAP appropriations
11. Continued and increased funding for open spaces
12. Increased funding for roadside vegetation III
13. Seek more participation of programs
14. More communication with legislators II
15. REAP should acquire more public land II
16. More public access on private land
17. More funding specifically for internships and under-graduate studies and research IIIII
18. Reserve money for time-sensitive projects
19. Increased funding for soil and water enhancements
20. More money for natural areas management IIII
21. REAP county committees should require 5-year plans IIII
22. Strategic communication about REAP
23. Further promotion of natural resource license plates
24. More management of soil and water enhancements and watershed projects
25. More accessibility of private funding for REAP
26. Further coordination and planning for state-wide strategic outdoor programs II
27. More funding for historical projects IIII
28. More funding for native habitats and water quality II
29. More use of conservation easements

## **Cedar Rapids**

Attendance: 64

Chair: Dick Heft

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. REAP Assemblies every year versus every 2 years II
2. Incentives to keep local committees active IIIII
3. Funding for local REAP committees IIII
4. Farmer education on no-till IIIII
5. Park up-keep and maintenance into separate fund IIIIIII
6. Help for grant writing IIIII
7. More education in classroom IIIIIII
8. Website to be updated more often III
9. More education on importance of protecting farmland IIII
10. Fully fund REAP IIIIIIIIIII
11. Help in developing partnerships II
12. REAP should be a permanent program IIIIIIIII
13. Improved access to waterways IIII
14. Don't let land acquisition outpace maintenance ability IIII
15. More funding for conservation education IIIII
16. Improve and broaden education including other state agencies II
17. More promotion for natural resource plates IIII
18. Support hunter walk-in program III
19. Support sustainable funding committee recommendations III
20. Give county committees more responsibilities IIIII

21. Invasive species management III
22. Support legislation and education controlling urban sprawl III
23. More support for PF buffers II
24. Pre-tour before Assemblies
25. Rotate Assemblies among counties
26. Continue with REAP Day at Capitol
27. More communication with legislators
28. More protection and education for wetlands

### **Council Bluffs**

Attendance: 38

Chair: Chad Graeve

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Priority for wetlands along the Missouri
2. More funding for conservation education III
3. Continued funding for soil and water conservation practices
4. Increase cap amounts for city grants
5. REAP money spent on Wilson Island
6. Marketing REAP through use of decals placed on current plates
7. Buy REAP plates online
8. Lake Manawa State Park improvements needed
9. Extra help Iowa woodlands/ Trees Forever
10. Full funding of REAP IIII
11. Appraisal system for buying land needs improvement for Loess Hills
12. Keep REAP formula in tact
13. Spread out application deadlines (e.g.- 3 deadlines in a year)
14. Natural resources an integral part of tourism II
15. Education for Loess Hills landowners
16. More trail development in Loess Hills State Park
17. Sustainable funding for REAP
18. Allocations for management as well as acquisition

### **Davenport**

Attendance: 15

Chair: Steve Grimes

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Natural resources value for tourism
2. REAP grants for maintenance/restoration of current projects II
3. More public education about REAP
4. Increase funding to 10% for historical resources
5. Increase funding for historical resources
6. More education about historical opportunities through REAP
7. Modify grant process to avoid waste of time of lower scorers
8. Allow REAP to be combined with other cost share programs for private landowners
9. Monitor long term projects to protect initial investment
10. Sustainable funding for REAP (tax increase?) III
11. Maintain current REAP fund distribution III

12. More publicity about REAP Assemblies and meetings
13. Clarify what REAP encompasses
14. Increase funding to \$20 million
15. Improve website links to historical resources grants
16. Improve grant applications (samples, clarification)
17. County committees need more authority
18. Use technology to improve county committee communication

## **Decorah**

Attendance: 37

Chair: Jon Steege

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. More publicity for natural resource plates II
2. Educate county treasurers about plates
3. Natural resource plates on fleet vehicles
4. Riparian buffer strips (IL), educate farmers
5. Strengthen conservation education in school systems IIII
6. Full funding of REAP IIII
7. More public education about benefits of water quality from REAP II
8. More education about sinkholes IIII
9. More youth/ young adult involvement in natural resource conservation IIII
10. More use of easements near public lands
11. More REAP money for trails
12. Find additional sources for REAP funding (e.g. innovative taxation, penny per water bottle)
13. More public education and marketing about REAP IIII
14. REAP grants for school field trips IIII
15. Protection of cold-water stream corridors with public access
16. Better REAP postings at REAP funded sites
17. Keep REAP Pie the same, unchanged
18. Bring naturalists into classrooms

## **Des Moines**

Attendance: 53

Chair: Steve Roe

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Full funding of REAP IIIIIIIIIII
2. Raise cap for REAP above \$20 million IIIIIIIII
3. More funding for trails in Des Moines and beyond III
4. Continued funding for conservation education II
5. More money for general conservation/ environmental needs
6. Further education about the REAP program, more signage
7. Sustainable funding IIIIIIIII
8. More conservation education for youth III
9. Preserve the farmland already in existence, control soil erosion
10. More funding for smaller landowners

11. Continued strong funding for historical resources
12. Strengthen relationship between public health and natural resources
13. More REAP signs at REAP funded projects
14. More natural resources education in school systems III
15. Further water quality education
16. More urban conservation
17. DNR should use more monies for public land acquisitions II
18. Conservation education program should be used to education farmers about sustainable farming
19. Continued and further protection of native plants and native lands
20. More money for management of acquired land
21. Educate public about benefits of REAP
22. More money for maintaining current REAP projects/ sites
23. Stronger communication about REAP with legislators
24. Ease restrictions for county committee membership
25. More connections between trails and between public lands
26. All counties should receive money for county REAP allocations
27. Trails (land and water) should connect to parks
28. Possible increase in funding for conservation education II
29. More local public relation/marketing of REAP
30. REAP formula/pie should remain intact, unchanged III
31. REAP land acquisition process in urban areas should be easier, quicker
32. More historical emphasis on our natural resources

## Fort Dodge

Attendance: 44

Chair: Jim Patton

### Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Full funding I
2. Mandatory active REAP committees III
3. Ease requirements for membership on county REAP committees II
4. Hamilton County needs a roadside vegetation program
5. Continued strong funding for trails
6. Sustainable funding for REAP II
7. More REAP education within current conservation organizations
8. Educate Treasurers about REAP license plates
9. Raise cap for REAP above \$20 million
10. Eliminate county REAP committees and create regional REAP committees instead
11. Invasive species education
12. Water quality education
13. User fees as funding for maintenance of current REAP projects
14. Mandatory public education by REAP county committees, contact legislators
15. Encourage voluntary participation by local publics

# Maquoketa

Attendance: 28

### Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Full funding I
2. More public education about REAP II
3. Full funding cap be raised to 25 million I
4. More communication about REAP meetings and events I
5. Consistent funding for REAP II
6. Dates of REAP Assemblies II
7. More responsibilities for local committees III
8. More young adult involvement III
9. Committee to review and revise participation restrictions III
10. More REAP signs at REAP funded sites, explain REAP II
11. Further promotion of natural resource plates II
12. Provide county committee with materials to promote plates, etc.
13. REAP materials to teachers
14. REAP formula/ pie should not change
15. Keep REAP assemblies in the Fall
16. Advertise/ promote REAP apparel
17. Raise conservation education funding amount
18. County committees to advertise REAP in newspapers
19. Contact legislators about full funding

## Marshalltown

Attendance: 47

Chair: Garry Brandenburg

### Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Full funding for REAP IIIIII
2. More freedom to use SWCD money II
3. Cooperative projects between city and county conservation boards
4. More public awareness of REAP II
5. Conservation education to become a percentage of the REAP pie
6. Increase cap for REAP funding
7. Loosen restrictions on REAP county committee members to include CCB members, employees, city employees, etc...

## Mason City

Attendance: 50

Chair: Tim Ackarman

### Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Full funding
2. Clarification of REAP funding
3. More public education about REAP and its benefits
4. Clarification of diverse REAP expenditures
5. Historical treasures
6. Water quality improvements

7. More trails
8. More money for administration for public education
9. More money for environmental education from REAP pie
10. Try to spread money farther with grants
11. Professional marketing, perhaps use license plate money for marketing
12. Don't change formula/ REAP pie
13. Restore condemnation for trails
14. Continue with natural resource plate marketing
15. Educate farmers on REAP land donation or sale
16. Perpetual and non-capped funding
17. Identify obstacles to full funding
18. Stronger county committees
19. More young adult/ youth involvement in REAP
20. Private sector support/ partnership
21. More description to public of current grants
22. Tweak formula/ REAP pie
23. More natural resource plate designs

## **Ottumwa**

Attendance: 45

Chair: Nels Christensen

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. More trails I IIII
2. More land acquisitions (cooperative) for public users and leverages I IIIIIII
3. Getting young Iowans outdoors I IIII
4. Facilities management II
5. More money for historical resources preservation III
6. Full funding of REAP I IIIIIIIII
7. Encourage young hunters and anglers III
8. Limit city eminent domain
9. Mentoring for young hunters
10. Funding to local conservation organizations for getting youth outdoors II
11. More greenbelts along waterways
12. Funding for new larger lakes
13. More emphasis on facility development in CCB grant scoring
14. Mentoring for women and handicapped interested in outdoors
15. Continue to help landowners with windbreaks, etc III
16. Continue urban storm water II
17. More roadside native vegetation plantings II
18. Possible change in Assembly dates (different time of year to include farmers)
19. No annexation of land in cities
20. Finance leverage opportunities with REAP
21. Liability issues with hunters and landowners II
22. Incentives to landowners for outdoor recreation III
23. Increased partnerships with other conservation organizations II
24. More urban access for outdoor activities





13. More youth involvement
14. Cities, counties and state should receive equal funding
15. REAP funds to farmers for windbreaks (expand practice list)
16. Further cooperation between conservation organizations about REAP education and opportunities
17. More education for county treasurers about natural resource plates
18. More outdoor conservation education
19. More NRCS, extension service education and partnership
20. Further protection of original, natural lands
21. Further education about littering and recycling

## **Spencer**

Attendance: 61

Chair: Orville Berg

Suggestions for REAP Improvement:

1. Sustainable funding IIII
2. Emphasize education about projects
3. Assure funding for heritage/ historical projects IIII
4. More funding for private lands conservation
5. Walk-in payments to landowners for hunting
6. More local control of funding
7. More funding for bio-fuels
8. Full funding for REAP IIIIIII
9. REAP formula unchanged II
10. More money for conservation education IIIIIII
11. More publicity about county REAP committees II
12. Pay more for maintenance
13. Money for local committees
14. More REAP signs
15. Low-interest loans
16. More public communication about REAP II
17. Historical documents restored for more public use (digital)
18. More trail systems in rural areas, linked trails III
19. Cooperative sharing of equipment between counties
20. Use of conservation easements
21. Increased education about preservation
22. Sustainable development
23. More historic funds in NW Iowa
24. More money water quality III
25. Look into Waterman Creek neighbor issues (not REAP)
26. More money spent on open spaces
27. More responsibilities for county committees II
28. Hard to score high for neighborhood park grants
29. More advertising about REAP
30. More public education about REAP
31. Involve county conservations boards and natural resource advocates in regional tourism

32. Engage youth in natural and cultural resources
33. More naturalist/ educator partnerships
34. License plate marketing in Dickinson County
35. More outdoor activities close to home